

A L E T T E R
To the Members of Parliament
For the County of
Concerning the Triennial Bill.

Wherein is considered, what may be the easiest Way to
secure Triennial Parliaments, without intruding up-
on the Prerogative.

With some Objections to the Methods of that Kind,
that formerly have been enacted into Laws.

By some Electors of Members of Parliament.

GENTLEMEN,

THE Triennial Bill has
been the Subject of much
Discourse : Wherein we
the Electors of divers
Members of Parliament do appre-
hend these following Points.

1. That a bare positive Law for
settled and certain Parliaments,
without any Means to induce or
procure an Execution of it, will be
an ineffectual Law : For if Parlia-
ments should not be called accord-
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ing to such a Law, what Remedy could there be had for the nonexecution without Violence?

2. That to lodg or place any executive Power for the Calling of Parliaments in any other Person or Persons, or in any other manner than as now is used by the King himself, seems to tend too much to the Diminution of the Prerogative Royal, and the Encouragement of those who are of the Republican Principle, as was evident in the Statute of 16 *Car. 1. cap. 1.* herein-after mentioned, which we submit to your Consideration.

Therefore to go such a middle Way to attain the End of frequent and certain Parliaments, as shall not touch, infringe or diminish the Prerogative of Calling, Proroguing and Dissolving Parliaments, and yet shall answer the Subjects Expectation, recommends it self to all lovers of Peace and Agreement between King and Parliament; and that is, to annex the following Condition (or somewhat to the like Effect) to the next Act of Parliament, which shall renew the Grant to the King of the Customs of Tonnage and Poundage, Excise, &c. which is now expiring, (that is to say)

‘ That in case there shall not from henceforth be a Parliament called
‘ and held once in every——Years,
‘ to be accounted from the End of

‘ the next preceding Session of Par-
‘ liament; which shall be permitted
‘ to fit the space of——Days at
‘ the least after the meeting thereof.
‘ And if such Parliament be not (in
‘ the Interval thereof) Dissolved
‘ once in every——Years, from the
‘ making hereof, and a new Parlia-
‘ ment called, which shall fit within
‘ the Times, and in manner as afore-
‘ said; Then and in any of the
‘ Cases aforesaid, this present Act,
‘ and all and every the Paiments and
‘ Revenues therein granted shall
‘ cease and be void.

A Clause may be likewise added to make it Criminal to pay the Customs and Excise after the Breach of that Condition.

Also the Grant of the Revenue, with such a Condition annexed, may be made temporary for nine or twelve Years: And by such a probationary Law, the Conveniences and Inconveniences thereof may in such a Time be discerned.

That such a Law will be effectual and proper for the designed End, appears,

1. In that it is consistent and agreeable with the Political Constitution of the Kingdom, for it leaves the Prerogative to call Parliaments intire and untoach’d.

2. It’s natural to the Act it self, for those Revenues arise by the Grant

Grant of the Commons, and may be defeated by a Condition.

3. It will be sufficiently remedial, because the Subject may easily take advantage of the Breach of the Condition, by non-payment of the Customs, &c. without acting any thing to the prejudice of the Prerogative.

4. It is operative enough to the designed End, for the Cesser of those Revenues, will be more perswasive to call Parliaments than any other Reason whatsoever. And,

5. It is most reasonable ; For the Design of granting those Revenues, was to support the Government for the Good of the Subject : But it's apparent that the neglect of Parliaments formerly did highly obstruct the Good of the Subject : Therefore by the using of those Revenues for the enabling a Neglect of Parliaments, (as in the latter End of the Reign of King *Charles* the Second) the Design of granting them was avoided. And consequently it is most reasonable that upon such a User, the Revenues so granted should cease.

The Methods that have been formerly taken to secure the certain Calling of Parliaments, have hitherto proved wholly ineffectual :

for the Statute of 16 *Car. 1. cap. 1.* which lodged a Power in the Lord Chancellor (in case of the King's Default) to call Parliaments ; and if he failed, then in the Peers or any twelve of them ; and if they failed, then in the Sheriffs ; and if they failed, then in the Freeholders, &c. introduced a kind of Republick into the Monarchy, by setting up a Supream Power besides the Royal Power, and consequently inconsistent with it. And accordingly would be easily avoided ; for if the King (as easily he might) should have overawed the Chancellor, and should have issued out a Proclamation to prohibit the Meeting of the Peers, What Peers would have ventured to have put this Act in Execution ? Or how would the Sheriffs have agreed (all over the Nation) in one Mind to have made Elections ? Or how would the Freeholders have been animated universally to Assemble and Elect ? Or what Protection could the Members have had to meet ? Or how could one Part of them have been assured that the rest would have met at the Day ?

And the Statute of 16 *Car. 2. cap. 1.* which repeals this Act of 16 *Car. 1.* and yet seems to make Provision for Triennial Parliaments, has been wholly useless, (tho yet in Force) because there-
by

by is provided no Remedy to induce the Execution of it. And it's plain, that a bare Positive Law in this Case, without providing a Remedy for the Subject peaceably to procure the Execution of it, must needs be a fruitless Law.

Whereas against the Acceptance of the Revenues, with the aforementioned Condition annexed, there can be no colour of Objection, for it necessitates no more than what by Law ought to be done: And what is endeavoured, should be believed will be done; besides it will be (in all probability) an immoveable Precedent; for it cannot be supposed that the Commons of

England, after they have gained a kind of Certainty of Anniversary Parliaments, will again abandon themselves to the Uncertainty that in the former Reigns has been experienced.

Gentlemen,

The supposed Right that Electors have to communicate their Apprehensions to their Representatives in Parliament, and the seeming Danger of a Misunderstanding about the Triennial Bill, and likewise the impossibility of making this Proposition any other way, has procur'd You this Trouble from

Your Electors.

F I N I S.